

A M E R I C A N
HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CURIOSITIES;

CONSISTING OF

FAC-SIMILES OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE EVENTS
OF THE REVOLUTION,
&c. &c.

WITH A VARIETY OF

RELIQUES, ANTIQUITIES,

AND

MODERN AUTOGRAPHS.

COLLECTED AND EDITED

BY

JOHN JAY SMITH,
MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

AND

JOHN F. WATSON,
ANNALIST OF PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK.

ASSISTED BY AN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN ANTIQUARIANS.

SIXTH EDITION; WITH IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS.

NEW YORK:
G. P. PUTNAM.
1861.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL CURIOSITIES, Part 2.

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Curiosities, Part 2., by John Jay Smith and John F. Watson

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AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CURIOSITIES

By John Jay Smith and John F. Watson

Part 2.

P R E F A C E

TO THE FIFTH EDITION.

FIRST SERIES.

THE past has a charm for Americans, as well as for the inhabitants of countries whose history extends far into the shadowy and unknown; *our* early and romantic past has the merit of being known and truly related; everything which adds to these truths is sought for with avidity by the curious and intelligent inquirer. We have now many autograph collectors, who may be viewed in the light of preservers of documents which would otherwise perish or be dispersed; to few, comparatively, are their treasures revealed. It was suggested, therefore, that a few of the most rare and curious "Historical and Literary Curiosities" in the possession of individuals, should be grouped for the amusement and instruction of the present and of future generations, who may well know from printed accounts *what* things were done, but who can also thus learn *how* they were done.

Nearly all the articles in the present collection have been taken by competent artists from the originals of which they purport to be fac-similes. Considerable labor and trouble have been expended in collecting together the varied materials here presented; but it has been with the Editors a "labor of love," rewarded by the pleasure of the pursuit.

The work having been received with extraordinary favor by the public, and a fifth edition being called for, some additions and alterations have been made, which will create increased interest in the volume.

J. JAY SMITH,
JOHN F. WATSON.

* * Fully to understand the work, it is necessary, in turning over the pages, to have constant reference to the Table of Contents, where will be found many explanations for which space could not be found on the plates.

NOTE TO THE SIXTH EDITION.

Notwithstanding the announcement in the second series of this work that the first would not be reprinted, the public has demanded a sixth edition, which has been entirely redrawn, and many highly interesting additions have been made.

PHILADELPHIA, October, 1860.

Part Two

Plate 8.—Autobiography of Chief Justice Marshall, written for Mr. Delaplaine.

In the possession of John F. Watson.

Plate 9.—Franklin's celebrated letter to Strahan, with two pages from Poor Richard's first Almanack.

Plate 10.—Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Mr. Delaplaine, declining to write his own life.

In the possession of John F. Watson.

Fac-similes of Jefferson's writing, in presentation copies of his first edition of Notes on Virginia, printed in English, in Paris.

The latter in the possession of G. P. Putnam, of New York.

Plate 11.—Letter from Lafayette, addressed to Mrs. Joseph Reed, and inclosing one hundred guineas for the Ladies' Association for making up clothing for the soldiers, and requesting that Madame Lafayette may be considered a member.

In the possession of William B. Reed, Esq.

Plate 12.—Amusing extracts from, and fac-simile of a large book entitled, "New England's Prospect." By William Wood, London, 1639.

In the Philadelphia Library.

Plate 13.—An Indian Gazette. From Lahontan's Voyages to North America, Amsterdam, 1728.

In the Philadelphia Library.

Plate 14.—Curious Title-pages; from books.

In the Philadelphia Library.

[Plate 8.](#)

[Plate 9.](#)

[Plate 10.](#)

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Sir

Richmond March 22nd 1798.

I was born on the 24th of September 1755, in the county of Fauquier in Virginia. My Father Thomas Marshall was the eldest son of John Marshall, ^{who in his marriage with a Miss Marshall emigrated} whose parents emigrated from Wales, & settled in the county of Westmoreland in Virginia, where my Father was born. My mother was named Mary Keith. She was the daughter of a clergyman of the name of Keith, who emigrated from Scotland & intermarried with a Miss Randolph in James River. I was educated at home, under the direction of my Father, who was a planter, but was often called from home as a surveyor. From my infancy I was destined for the bar; but the contest between the mother country & her colonies drew her from my studies: I in September 1774, I lost touch into the service as a subaltern. I continued in the army until the year 1781, when, being without a command, I resigned my commission, in the interval between the invasions of Virginia by the British. In the year 1782 I was elected in to the legislature of Virginia, & in the fall session of the same year, was chosen a member of the Executive Council of that State. In June 1783 I intermarried with Mary Willis Ambler, the second daughter of W. Jaquelia Ambler, then Treasurer of Virginia, who was the third son of W. Richard Ambler a gentleman who had emigrated from England, & settled at York River town in Virginia. In April 1784 I resigned my seat in the Executive assembly, & came to the bar, at which I continued, declining any other public office then a seat in the legislature, until the year 1797, when I was associated with General Pinkney & Mr Gerry in a mission to France. In 1798 I returned to the United States, & in the spring of 1799 was elected a member of Congress, a candidate for which much against my inclination, I was induced to become by the request of General Washington. At the close of the first session I was nominated first to the Department of War, & afterwards to that of State, which last office I accepted in which I continued until the beginning of the year 1801, when Mr Ellsworth having resigned, & Mr Jay having declined his appointment, I was nominated to the office of Chief Justice, which I still hold

J Marshall

Enlarge

Philad^a July 5. 1775

W. Graham,

You are a Member of Parliament,
and one of that Majority which has
doomed my Country to Destruction—
— You have begun to burn our Towns,
and murder our People. — Look upon
your Hands! — They are stained with the
Blood of ^{your} Relations! — You and I were
long Friends: — You are now my En-
emy; — and

I am, Yours,
B. Franklin

III Mon. May hath xxxi days.

True tho' wanting Gold and Lands,
Lives cheerful, easy, and content;
Covous, unblest'd, with twenty Hands
Employ'd to count his yearly Rent.
Sages in Wisdom! tell me which
Of these you think possesses more!
One with his Poverty is rich,
And one with all his Wealth is poor.

1	Philip & James	3	1274 56 8	New 3 1 day,
2	h sets 2 11.	4	114 55 8	4 4 morn.
3	Ascension Day	5	254 54 8	24 so 8 50
4	h 2 Thunder	6	44 53 8	3 sets 1 26 aft.
5	h 2 and rain	7	244 53 8	11 warrant ye,
6	Sun. aft. Wcen.	8	514 52 8	9 rises 3 45
7	then	9	224 51 8	First Quarter
8	d h fair	10	24 50 8	goes before
9	* rise 4 17.	10	204 49 8	in 11
10	d h again	11	24 48 8	sets 2 10 mo.
11	warm wea.	12	174 48 8	Rashness;
12	h 2 ther	13	114 47 8	Who'd-a-tho't
13	Whitsunday.	14	134 46 8	sets 3 32 m.
14	cold rain and	15	264 46 8	h set 1 17
15	h 2 wind.	16	24 45 8	Full 15 day,
16	Ember Week.	17	244 44 8	at 4 morn.
17	h rises 3. 34.	18	44 43 8	24 so. 7 51
18	pleasant	19	164 43 8	it 7 comet
19	weather.	20	284 42 8	rise 11 26 af.
20	Crinity Sunday	21	44 42 8	frisking after.
21	h 2 now	22	224 41 8	Prayers and
22	comes hail	23	24 40 8	Prevender binder
23	h 2 rain	24	164 40 8	Last Quarter.
24	and thunder;	25	284 39 8	d rise 1 5 mo.
25	then follows	26	44 38 8	no Journey.
26	fine growing	27	244 38 8	9 rises 3 32
27	h 2 Crinity	28	24 37 8	d rise 2 14 mo.
28	weather	29	224 37 8	d d 9
29	K Chs. II. Resto.	30	24 37 8	d d 8
30	P Amul. bo. 1711	31	204 36 8	New 30 day,
31	Corpus Christi.		44 36 8	1 Afternoon.

Poor Richard, 1733.

A N

Almanack

For the Year of Christ

1733,

Being the First after LEAP YEAR.

And makes since the Creation	Years
By the Account of the Eastern Greeks	7241
By the Latin Church, when \odot ent. γ	6932
By the Computation of <i>W. W.</i>	5742
By the Roman Chronology	5682
By the Jewish Rabbits.	5494

Wherein is contained

The Lunations, Eclipses, Judgment of the Weather, Spring Tides, Planets Motions & mutual Aspects, Sun and Moon's Rising and Setting, Length of Days, Time of High Water, Fairs, Courts, and observable Days.

Fitted to the Latitude of Forty Degrees, and a Meridian of Five Hours West from London, but may without sensible Error, serve all the adjacent Places, "even from Newfoundland to South-Carolina.

By RICHARD SAUNDERS, Philom.

PHILADELPHIA:

Printed and sold by B. FRANKLIN, at the New Printing-Office near the Market

Enlarge

Sir

Monticello Feb. 9. 16.

Before the receipt of your letter of Jan. 27. I had received those of Dec 20 & Jan. 12 which remained unacknowledged. thus I am certain you will pardon when I assure you that I pass from four to six hours of every day of my life at the writing table, answering letters in nine tenths of which neither my interests nor inclinations are engaged this mass of labor obliges me to marshall it, calls and to answer first what guesses most. your two preceding letters related to a portrait on which I had, ^{one or more} in a former one, given you all the information I possessed, and having nothing new to add, I thought you would excuse my not repeating the old.

I have to thank you for the print of my Fulton it is a good likeness and elegantly executed. you request me in your last letter, to give you the facts of my life birth, parentage, profession, time of going to Europe returning offices &c. I really have not time to do it, and still less inclination. to become my own biographer is the last thing on the world I would undertake, no. if there has been any thing in my course worth the public attention, they are better judges of it than I can be myself, and to them it is my duty to leave it. There was a work published in England under the title of 'Public Characters' in which they honored me with a place. I never knew nor could suspect, who wrote what related to myself, but it must have been some one who had been on a situation to obtain tolerably exact and minute information. I do not now possess the book, and therefore cannot say whether there were inaccuracies in it. on this my excuse for thinking I ought not to meddle with this subject accept the tender of my respects

M. Delaplaine

Th: Jefferson

Enlarge

Written by
the Author on the Fly Leaves of two
Presentation Copies of the original French Edition
of Jefferson's Notes of
Virginia.

Th: Jefferson having had a few copies of these Notes printed to offer to some of his friends & to some other estimable characters beyond that line, begs Mr Barclay's acceptance of a copy. unwilling to expose them to the public eye, he asks the favor of Mr. Barclay to put them into the hands of no person on whose care & fidelity he cannot rely to guard them against publication.

Th: Jefferson begs Doct^r. Price's acceptance of a copy of these Notes. The circumstances under which they were written, with the talents of the writer will account for their errors & defects. the original was sent to Mons^{ie}ur de Marbois in Decemb. 1781. being asked for a copy by a friend who wished to possess some of the details they contain he revised them in the subsequent winter. the vices however of their original composition were such as forbade material amendment he now has a few copies printed with a design of offering them to some of his friends, and to some other estimable characters beyond that line. a copy is presented to Doct^r. Price as a testimony of the respect which the writer bears him. unwilling to expose them to the public eye, he asks the favor of Doct^r. Price to put them into the hands of no person on whose care & fidelity he cannot rely to guard them against publication

Read Quarters June the 25th 1780

Madam

In Admiring the New Resolution in which the
Fair ones of Philadelphia have taken the Lead, I
am induced to feel for those American Ladies who
Being out of the Continent cannot Participate in this
Patriotic Measure. I know of one who heartily
wishing for a personal Acquaintance with the
Ladies of America would feel particularly happy
to be admitted among them on the present occasion
Without presuming to break in upon the Rules
of your Respected Association, May I most
humbly present myself as her Ambassador to
the confederate Ladies, and solicit in her Name
that Mrs President be pleased to accept of
her offering

With the highest Respect I have the
Honor to be Madam
Your Most obedient Servant
Servant Lafayette

Enlarge

From New England's Prospect

BY

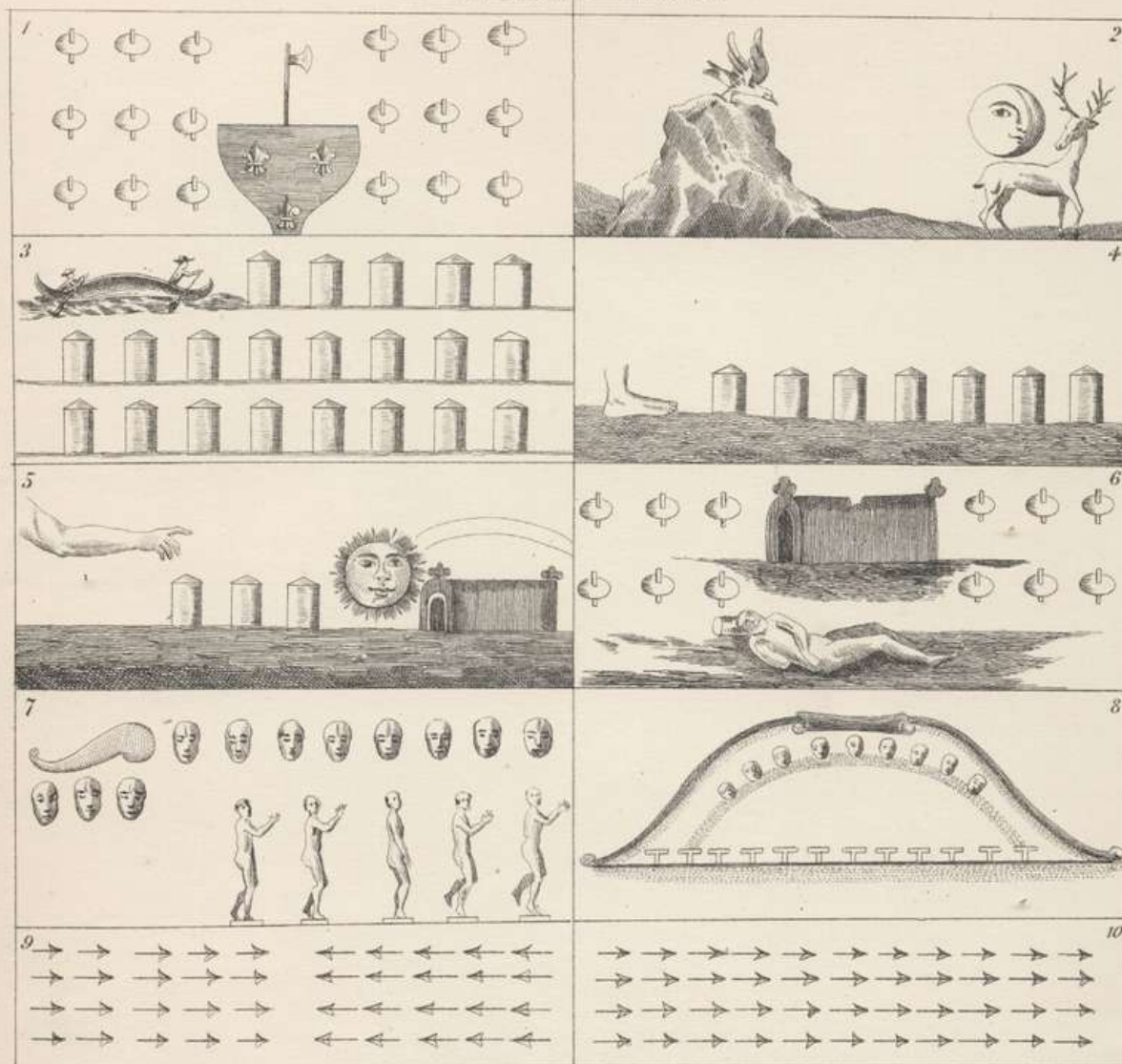
W^m WOOD, LONDON, 1639.

Boston is two miles North-east from *Roxberry* : His situation is very pleasant, being a *Peninsula*, hemd on the South-side with the Bay of *Roxberry*, on the North-side with *Charles River*, the Marshes on the backe-side being not halfe a quarter of a Mile over ; so that a little fencing will secure their Cattle from the Woolves. Their greatest wants, be wood, and Medow ground, which never were in that place ; being constrained to fetch their building timber, and fire-wood from the Ilands in boates ; and their Hay in Loyters : It being a neck, and bare of wood, they are not troubled with three great annoyances, of Woolves, Rattle-snakes, and Musketoes. These that live here upon their cattle, must be constrained to take Farmes in the Countrey, or else they cannot subsist, the place being too small to containe many, and fittest for such as do Trade into *England*, for such commodities as the Country wants, being the chiefe place for shipping and Merchandize.

On the North-side of *Charles River* is *Charles Towne*, which is another necke of Land, on whose North-side runs *Mistick-river*. *Charles* This towne for all things may be well parallel'd with her neighbour *Boston*, being in the same fashion with her bare necke, and constrained to borrow conveniences from the maine, and to provide for themselves Farmes in the Countrey for their better subsistence. At this Towne there is kept a Ferry-boate, to conveigh passengers over *Charles River*, which between the two Townes is a quarter of a mile over, being a very deep Channell. Here may ride forty ships at a time.

Concerning Lyons, I will not say that I ever saw any my selfe, but some affirme that they have seene a Lyon at *Cape Anne*, which is not above six leagues from *Boston* : some likewise being lost in woods, have heard such terrible roarings as have made them much agast ; which must either be Devills or Lyons : there being no other creatures which use to roare saving Beares, which haue not such a terrible kinde of roaring : besides *Plimouth* men have traded for Lyons skinnnes in former times. But sure it is that there be Lyons on that Continent, for the *Virginians* saw an old Lyon in their Plantation, who having lost his lackall, which was wont to hunt his prey, was brought so poore that he could goe no further ; For Beares they be common, being a great black kind of Beare, which be most fierce in Strawberry time at which time they have young ones ; at this time likewise they will goe upright like a man, and clime trees, and swim to the Islands : which if the *Indians* see, there will be more sportfull Beare bayting than Paris Garden can afford.

An Indian Gazette.



EXPLANATION OF THE INDIAN GAZETTE

Giving an account of one of their Expeditions

The following divisions explain those on the plate, as referred by the numbers.

1. Each of these figures represent the number ten. They all signify, that 10 times 10, or 100 American Indians took up the hatchet, or declared war, in favor of the French which is represented by the hatchet, placed over the arms of France.
2. They departed from Montreal represented by the bird, just taking wing from the top of a mountain. The moon and the buck, shew the time to have been in the first quarter of the buckmoon, answering to July.
3. They went by water, signified by the canoe. The number of huts, such as they raise to pass the night in, shews they were 21 days on their passage.
4. Then they came on shore, and travelled seven days by land represented by the foot and the seven huts.
5. When they arrived near the habitations of their enemies, at sun rise shewn by the sun being to the eastward of them beginning as they think, its daily course, there they lay in wait three days represented by the hand pointing, and the three huts.
6. After which, they surprised their enemies, in number 12 times 10, or 120. The man asleep shews how they surprised them, and the hole in the top of building, is supposed to signify, that they broke into some of their habitations, in that manner.
7. They killed with the club eleven of their enemies and took five prisoners. The former represented by the club, and the eleven heads, the latter by the figures on the little pedestals.
8. They lost nine of their own men in the action represented by the nine heads within the bow, which is the emblem of honor among the Americans but had none taken prisoners a circumstance they lay great weight on, shewn by all the pedestals being empty.
9. The heads of the arrows, pointing opposite ways, represent the battle.
10. The heads of the arrows all pointing the same way, signify the flight of the enemy.

Enlarge

VIRGINIA:

More especially the South part thereof,
Richly and truly valued: *viz.*

The fertile *Carolana*, and no lesse excellent Isle of *Ros-
nock*, of Latitude from 31. to 37. Degr. relating the
meanes of rayling infinite profits to the Adventu-
rers and Planters.

The second Edition, with Addition of

THE DISCOVERY OF SILKWORMS.
with their benefit.

And Implanting of Mulberry Trees.

ALSO

The Dressing of Vines, for the rich Trade of mak-
ing Wines in VIRGINIA.

Together with

The making of the Saw-mill, very usefull in *Virginia*,
for cutting of Timber and Clapbord to build with-
all, and its Conversion to many as profitable Uses.

By *E. W. Gent*,

LONDON,

Printed by *T. H.* for *John Stephenson*, at the Signe of
the Sun below Ludgate. 1650.

The Wonders of the Invisible World:
Being an Account of the

TRIALS

OF

Several Witches,

Lately Executed in

NEW-ENGLAND:

And of several remarkable Curiosities therein Occurring.

Together with,

- I. Observations upon the Nature, the Number, and the Operations of the Devils.
- II. A short Narrative of a late outrage committed by a knot of Witches in *Swede-Land*, very much resembling, and so far explaining, that under which *New-England* has laboured.
- III. Some Counsels directing a due Improvement of the Terrible things lately done by the unusual and amazing Range of Evil-Spirits in *New-England*.
- IV. A brief Discourse upon those Temptations which are the more ordinary Devils of Satan.

By *COTTON MATHER.*

Published by the Special Command of his EXCELLENCY the Governour of
the Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England*.

Printed first, at *Boston* in *New-England*; and Reprinted at *Lon-
don*, for *John Dinton*, at the *Raven* in the *Poultry*. 1693

PL. XIV.

LEAH and RACHEL,

OR,

the Two Fruitfull Sisters

VIRGINIA,

AND

MARY-LAND:

Their Present Condition, Im-
partially stated and related.

WITH

*A Removall of such Imputations as are scandalously
cast on these Countries, whereby many deceived
Souls, chose rather to Beg, Steal, rot in Prison,
and come to shamefull deaths, then to better their being
by going thither, wherein is plenty of all things
necessary for Humane subsistence.*

By *John Hammond.*

Eccles. 11. 7. 8.

*If children live honestly and have wherewith, they shall put away the
shame of their Parents.*

LONDON,

Printed by *T. Mabb*, and are
to be sold by *Nich. Bourn*, neer the Royall
Exchange, 1 6 5 6

AMERICA DISSECTED,

BEING A

FULL AND TRUE ACCOUNT

OF ALL THE

AMERICAN COLONIES:

SHewing,

The Intemperance of the Climates; excessive Heat and
Cold, and sudden violent Changes of Weather; ter-
rible and mischievous Thunder and Lightning; bad and
unwholesome Air, destructive to Human Bodies; Bad-
ness of Money; Danger from Enemies; but, above
all, the Danger to the Souls of the Poor People that
remove thither, from the multifarious wicked and pes-
tilent Heresies that prevail in those Parts.

In SEVERAL LETTERS,

From a Rev. DIVINE of the Church of ENGLAND.

Missionary to AMERICA, and Doctor of Divinity.

Published as a Caution to Unsteady People who may
be tempted to leave their Native Country.

DUBLIN:

Printed and sold by *S. POWELL*, DAME STREET.

1753.

[Price a British Six-pence.]

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